CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2016
11:00 AM EST

U.P. Paper
402 W. Elk Street
Manistique, MI 49854

PRESENT
J. Beaudo, Hannahville Indian Community
G. Corkin, Chair, Marquette County
R. DesJardins, City of Munising
J. Doucette, Alger County
D. Rivard, Secretary, Delta County
J. Linder, Menominee County

ABSENT/EXCUSED
T. Edlebeck, City of Kingsford
C. Reiter, Schoolcraft County

OTHERS PRESENT
J. Schultz, Director; E. Schada, Staff

CALL TO ORDER
Meeting was called to order at 11:05 am and quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF 7d- RPI RESOLUTION – WAS MADE BY D. RIVARD, SUPPORTED BY J. LINDEL AND CARRIED.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 MINUTES MADE BY D. RIVARD, SUPPORTED BY J. BEAUDO, CARRIED AND THE MINUTES WILL BE PLACED ON FILE.

4. TREASURER’S REPORT
Treasurer Beaudo noted a cash balance of $264,637, a decent cash balance for the end of the fiscal year. Noting the comparisons to previous fiscal years, CUPPAD is in strong financial shape currently. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT WAS MADE BY D. RIVARD, SUPPORTED BY R. DESJARDINS; MOTION CARRIED.

5. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Echoing the report on the organizations’ financial condition, Director Schultz summarized CUPPAD’s significant financial component, the RPI, will be requested again. This funding has allowed CUPPAD to grow and diversify as well as increase staff capacity. The addition of Dotty LaJoy will also help the organization in terms of project and time management. The board congratulated Joel on hiring Dotty as she comes with a proven track record of success and is a good coalition builder.
CUPPAD’s 2017 budget was developed with staff input and provided. It is based on conservative estimates and doesn’t over exaggerate opportunities. A fiscal year budget of $756,754 is proposed; just slightly higher than a $746,444 FY16.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None

7. NEW BUSINESS
7A. 2017 Budget
A motion by Gerry Corkin, supported by D. Rivard, the draft 2017 budget was approved in the amount of $756,754.00. Noting a pending grant application, a budget amendment would be made at a later time to reflect these additional revenues.

7B. Staff Activity Report will be provided at the next meeting.

7C. Energy Discussion- Chairman Corkin reported that any and all who would like to be involved in the future of U.P. Energy join the discussions during the 15 county round tables/work groups to advocate heavily for the local communities often left housing residents/business customers with exhorborent energy bills. Something needs to be done in the regulatory environment to keep energy prices fair. Director Schultz agreed this will be an ongoing challenge and a difficult arena to impact directly.

7D. RPI Resolution
A MOTION BY J. DOUCETTE, SUPPORTED BY J. BEAUDO AUTHORIZING CUPPAD TO APPLY FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY FUNDING CARRIED.

8. FEDERAL REVIEWS
None

9. The next meeting will be December 2, 2016 in Escanaba at CUPPAD’s Offices.

10. Items from Executive Committee

Alger County: The new jail is open; a transportation grant was received to assist the transport of inmates through use of new “taser vests” increasing the safety of the officers and the public in the event something goes wrong the vests are a good precaution. The Interpretive Center project is behind schedule but is earmarked for June to be open.

Delta County: Contracts for the purchase of power are being reviewed by the City of Escanaba; a new medical complex is being constructed in Gladstone; a local entrepreneur is trying to purchase lakefront property from City to expand deep water port behind City Hall.

Dickinson County: N/A

Hannahville: Construction projects are winding down.

Marquette County: The closing of the Empire Mine will affect not only the 300 laid off employees, but also the County as a whole. Of the 300 laid off individuals some will be able to transfer to a mine in Minnesota, others will be retiring, and the majority will be looking for another job. Michigan Works! is assisting these employees with retraining opportunities. The collaboration is working out. On a positive note, there has been over $3 billion in building and construction in Marquette County. The County’s budget preparation will have challenges due to MERS.
Menominee County: The talking point in Menominee County currently is the Back 40 Mine. Public hearings are being held and there is opposition during this public comment period due to its close proximity to Menominee River. The mine would require one year of construction followed by what they believe would be 8 years of open pit mining employing 150 in mining preceded by about 250 in construction related jobs.

Schoolcraft County: N/A

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm by Chairperson Gerry Corkin.